

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP03/14165

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
Int.Cl.⁷ H04N5/30-5/335

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
Int.Cl.⁷ H04N5/30-5/335

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1922-1996 Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1994-2003
Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1971-2003 Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho 1996-2003

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	JP 9-247536 A (Toshiba Corp.),	2, 3, 5
Y	19 September, 1997 (19.09.97), Full text; Figs. 1 to 6 (Family: none)	4
X	JP 6-98080 A (Hitachi, Ltd.),	2, 3
Y	08 April, 1994 (08.04.94),	4
A	Full text; Figs. 1 to 4 (Family: none)	5
Y	JP 8-205034 A (Nissan Motor Co., Ltd.),	4
	09 August, 1996 (09.08.96), Full text; Figs. 2, 4 (Family: none)	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not

considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing

date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is

cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other

special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other

means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later

than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or

priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to

understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be

considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive

step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be

considered to involve an inventive step when the document is

combined with one or more other such documents, such

combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"Z" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search
10 February, 2004 (10.02.04)

Date of mailing of the international search report
24 February, 2004 (24.02.04)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Japanese Patent Office

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	JP 6-152856 A (Fuji Xerox Co., Ltd.), 31 May, 1994 (31.05.94), Full text; Fig. 3 (Family: none)	2-5
A	JP 4-281681 A (Sony Corp.), 07 October, 1992 (07.10.92), Full text; Figs. 1 to 5 (Family: none)	2-5
X	JP 2000-69371 A (Sony Corp.),	7-9, 13
Y	03 March, 2000 (03.03.00),	14
A	Full text; Figs. 1 to 4 (Family: none)	10-12
X	JP 2001-16509 A (Canon Inc.),	7-9, 13
Y	19 January, 2001 (19.01.01),	14
A	Full text; Figs. 1 to 16 & EP 1067777 A2	10-12
Y	JP 2001-275029 A (Minolta Co., Ltd.), 05 October, 2001 (05.10.01), Full text; Figs. 1 to 15 & US 2002/8760 A1	14
Y	JP 54-80024 A (Ricoh Co., Ltd.), 26 June, 1979 (26.06.79), Full text; Figs. 1 to 3 (Family: none)	14
A	JP 2002-237998 A (Sony Corp.), 23 August, 2002 (23.08.02), Full text; Figs. 1 to 11 & WO 02/65760 A1	7-14
A	JP 6-205307 A (Canon Inc.), 22 July, 1994 (22.07.94), Full text; Figs. 1 to 14 & US 5872596 A	10-12
A	JP 2-60380 A (Fuji Electric Co., Ltd.), 28 February, 1990 (28.02.90), Full text; Figs. 1 to 5 (Family: none)	10-12
A	JP 5-48460 A (Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.), 26 February, 1993 (26.02.93), Full text; Figs. 1 to 11 (Family: none)	10-12
A	JP 2001-346102 A (Canon Inc.), 14 December, 2001 (14.12.01), Full text; Figs. 1 to 24 (Family: none)	10-12

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Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.: 1, 6

because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

The definition of the invention of claim 1 is unclear as a whole because the specific constitution and operation are not supported by the description. The invention of claim 6 is shown in Figs. 17, 20 attached to the description. Even referring to the figures, (Continued to extra sheet.)

2. ☐ Claims Nos.:

because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. ☐ Claims Nos.:

because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

Claims 2-5 relate to an image sensor of address selection type wherein all the pixels are exposed at a time.

Claims 7-13 relate to an area image sensor wherein shading correction is conducted.

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.

2. ☒ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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Continuation of Box No. I-1 of continuation of first sheet (1)

the operation is unclear as a whole because the photoelectric conversion signal during the previous exposure time is reset by the reset for exposure start and hence the photoelectric conversion signal during each exposure time cannot be read out.